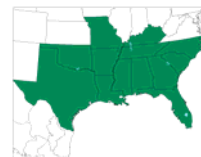


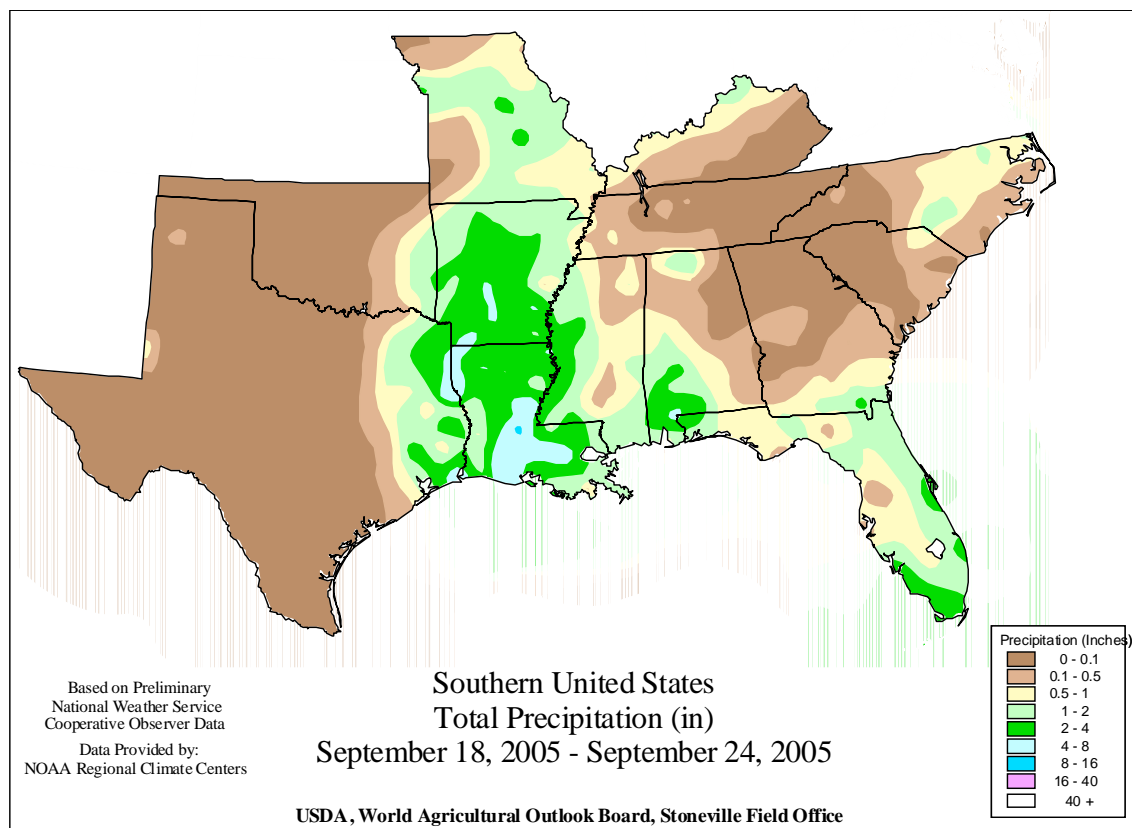


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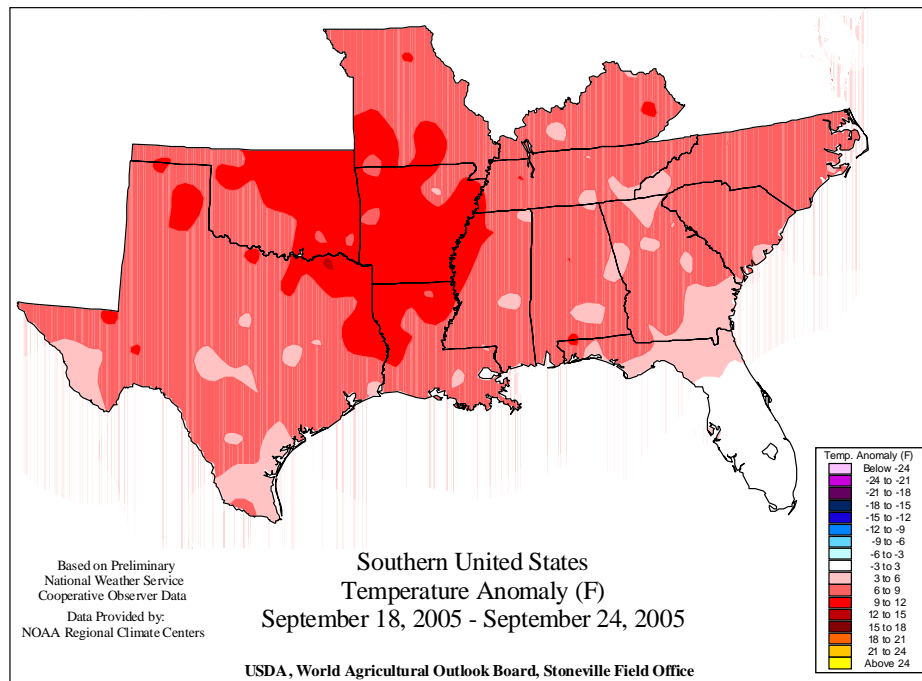
## WEEKLY AGRICULTURAL WEATHER REPORT

**September 18 to 24, 2005**



Another active week occurred over the southern U.S., but Hurricane Rita was the biggest weather maker. As Rita passed through the Florida straits on Tuesday, September 20 as a Category 1 hurricane, it brought gusty winds and rains up to 4 inches. The Florida Keys and Everglades region had the widest area of heavy rainfall, and some areas of the Everglades may have actually received over 10 inches based on NWS doppler radar estimates. Two peak wind gusts recorded from Rita measured 58 mph at Miami Beach, and 64 mph at Fowey Rocks Light. As Rita entered the Gulf, she quickly reached Category 5 status, but weakened to a Category 3 hurricane before making landfall early Saturday, September 24 on the Texas and Louisiana border. As Rita traversed northward, she brought flooding rains of 4 to 8 inches to most areas, but up to 10.48 inches in Center, Texas. Peak winds in Texas recorded up to 100 mph before instrument failure.

Before Rita's arrival, the southern United States was extremely hot and dry. Weekly temperatures averaged well above normal in all areas, except for central to southern Florida in association with Rita's cloud cover. Otherwise, temperature departures up to 12 degrees F above normal occurred in some areas, and at least 3 to 6 degrees F above for others.



The Mississippi Delta was hot and dry until the late-week effects from Hurricane Rita on Saturday, September 24. Daily temperatures remained 90 degrees F or more for six to seven days of the week. Record-breaking temperatures occurred four days straight in Stoneville, with the highest temperature reaching 100 degrees F on Wednesday, September 21, beating the old daily record of 97 in 1955. Some of the precipitation from Rita was recorded after Saturday, but the majority of the Delta locations received 2 to 4 inches of rainfall on Saturday alone.

**(For additional information, contact Nancy Lopez at 662-686-3395)**

## Agricultural Summary

United States Crop Progress Report*					
Week Ending					
September 25, 2005, September 18, 2005, September 25, 2004, 2000-2004 Average					
		Percent			
<b>Cotton</b>	<b>Bolls Opening</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>75</b>
	<b>Harvested</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>16</b>
	<b>Percent (Good to Excellent)</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>---</b>
<b>Corn</b>	<b>Mature</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>71</b>
	<b>Harvested</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>18</b>
	<b>Percent (Good to Excellent)</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>---</b>
<b>Rice</b>	<b>Harvested</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>66</b>
	<b>Percent (Good to Excellent)</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>---</b>
<b>Soybeans</b>	<b>Dropping Leaves</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>72</b>
	<b>Harvested</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14</b>
	<b>Percent (Good to Excellent)</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>---</b>
*Source: USDA/National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)					
"---" = Not Reported					

### Cotton:

Bolls were open on 68 percent of the acreage nationally, compared with 69 percent last year and 75 percent for the 5-year average. Fifteen percent of the crop was harvested, 3 points ahead of last year and 1 point behind the 5-year average. Of the southern states, only Arkansas and Louisiana were ahead of their 5-year average harvest pace. Harvest began in North and South Carolina. Nationally, crop conditions declined 4 percentage points from the previous week to 58 percent of the crop rated good to excellent. Crop acres rated good to excellent declined 20 percent in Louisiana, 16 percent in Mississippi, and 11 percent in Alabama.

### Corn:

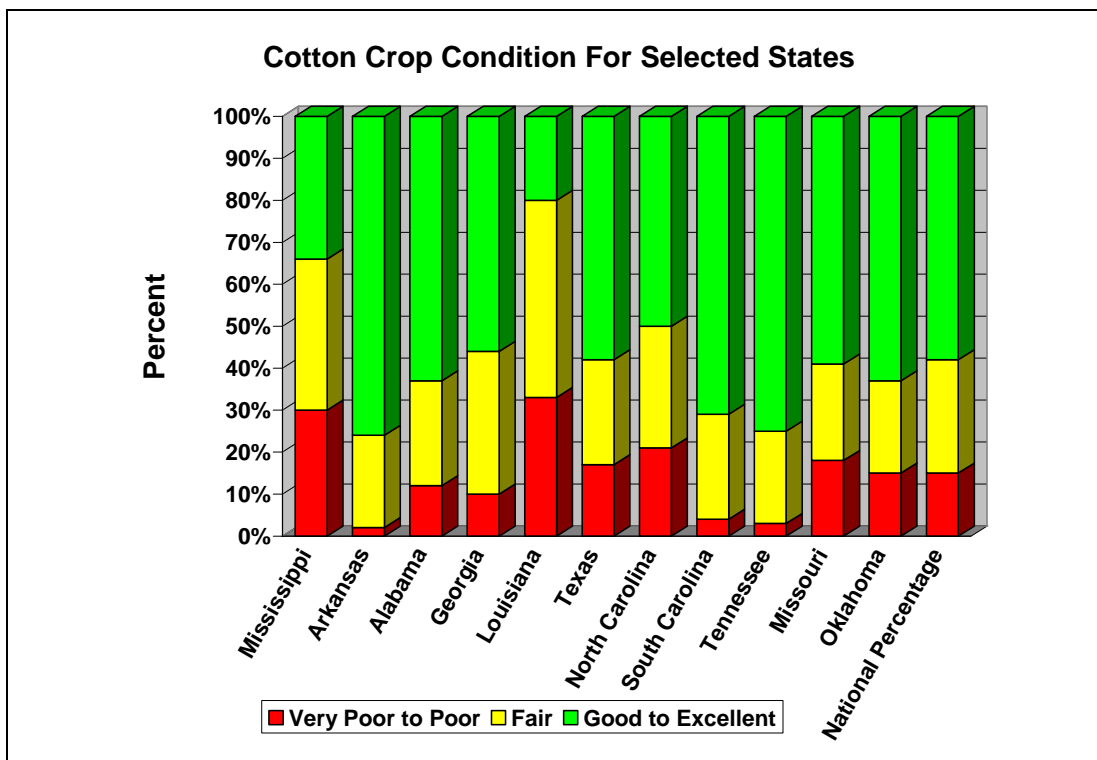
Eighteen percent of the nation's crop had been harvested, 3 points ahead of last year and equal to the 5-year average. Harvest continued in all of the southern states, was completed in Louisiana, and was near completion in Mississippi with 94 percent harvested. Nationally, crop acreage rated good to excellent remained the same from the previous week.

### Rice:

Nationally, 60 percent of the acreage had been harvested, 13 points behind last year and 6 points behind the 5-year average pace. Harvest continued in all of the southern states and neared completion in Texas with 98 percent of their crop harvested, equaling their 5-year average harvest pace. Sixty percent of the nation's crop was rated good to excellent, a 3 point decline from the previous week. Mississippi's acres declined 23 points to 50 percent rated good to excellent.

### Soybeans:

Nationally, 19 percent of the soybean acres had been harvested, 2 points ahead of last year's pace and 5 points ahead of the 5-year average pace. Progress was most advanced in Mississippi where 78 percent had been harvested. The U.S. soybean crop, with 55 percent of the acres rated good to excellent, improved 2 points from the previous week.



### Cotton Conditions by State:

Nationally, 58 percent of the cotton acreage was rated good to excellent, a 4 point decline from the previous week. Mississippi, at 34 percent good to excellent, reduced their good to excellent crop acreage estimate by 16 percentage points from the previous week. Louisiana's cotton acres, at 20 percent rated good to excellent, declined 20 points from the previous week, the lowest of any southern state. Arkansas (76 percent good to excellent) and Tennessee (75 percent good to excellent) reported the best crop condition ratings of the southern states.

(For additional information, contact Bart Freeland at 662-686-3280)